

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

HARDIN COUNTY WATER)	
DISTRICT NO. 1'S REQUEST)	
FOR DEVIATION FROM)	CASE NO. 98-290
WATER METER TESTING)	

O R D E R

On May 14, 1998, the Public Service Commission ("Commission") received a letter from Hardin County Water District No. 1 ("Hardin County"). In the letter, Hardin County outlined a procedure it would like to implement wherein it would begin removing water meters from locations where the customer has vacated the premises and no metering activity has taken place for at least six months. The procedure did not include testing the meters upon removal and Hardin County requested deviation from any regulation so requiring. Hardin County assured the Commission that any meter it pulled under the circumstances outlined would be properly tested before being placed back in service.

The Commission finds that pursuant to 807 KAR 5:006, Section 27, and 807 KAR 5:066, Section 18, it has the authority to grant deviation from any regulation requiring testing.

While the Commission finds that there are no requirements in KRS Chapter 278 nor the regulations duly authorized thereunder that specifically direct water utilities to

test water meters upon removal, testing may be required in order to give full meaning and effect to other regulatory requirements.

There are several reasons why the Commission requires water meter testing, but one of the most important is to ensure that all customers are being treated fairly by the utilities while at the same time paying their fair share for the service provided. 807 KAR 5:006, Section 18, states that if a customer makes a written request to have a meter tested and has not done so more frequently than once in each 12-month period, the utility shall make a test of the meter. In order for the customers of Hardin County to be afforded an adequate opportunity to receive a final bill and make such request and in order to give full meaning to this regulation, the Commission finds that certain conditions should be placed on the removal of any meter from service after a customer has vacated the premises.

807 KAR 5:066, Section 15(2)(b), states that all meters tested in accordance with the rules for periodic, request or complaint tests shall be tested in the condition as found in the customer's service prior to any alteration or adjustment.

The Commission, having considered the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that in order to ensure a customer's right to have a meter tested for accuracy in an as found condition, the procedure for meter removal outlined by Hardin County should be approved with the condition that no meter shall be unsealed, recalibrated or destroyed during the six-month inactive period unless it is first properly tested.

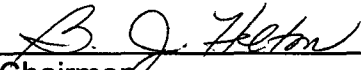
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Absent an outstanding request by a vacating customer to have a meter tested, any water meter which has had no metering activity for a period of six months may be removed from its service location by Hardin County without being tested. However, to ensure a customer's right to request that a meter be tested and in order to ensure that upon said request the meter may be tested in an as found condition as required by 807 KAR 5:066, Section 15(2)(b), no meter shall be unsealed, recalibrated or destroyed during the six month period unless it is first properly tested.

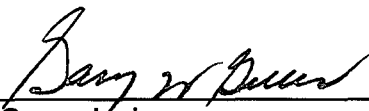
2. All new meters, and any meter removed from service for any cause, shall be tested for accuracy as required by 807 KAR 5:066, Section 15(2) before being placed in service.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 21st day of December, 1998.

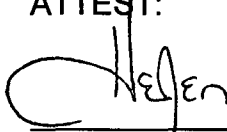
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director